RIMTORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERT DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

INDICATIONS OF A BOLD FOREIGN POLICY.

From the N. Y. Herald. Since the 4th of March the people of the United States have been awaiting with anxiety to learn something of the temper of the administration with reference to our foreign relations. Three great questions have been agitating us, either one of them capable, if well handled, of making the present Presidential term historic. These questions are Cuba, Mexico, and Canada. All of them are the resultants of the same active forces pressing in the same direction. To disobey the mandates of these forces is to show front against fate; to listen to them and obey is to fulfil our destiny. Railroads, telegraphs, and other elements of progress now govern us. They havemade and must make sad havoe among bound ary lines, narrow ideas, and localism. These are our irresistible dictators. They force the nation in the direction of Cuba, Mexico, and Canada, and say that "while those countries are not with us they are against us." One and all of them impede our movements, hamper our greatness. Four days since we explained that Cuba is a commanding fortification, which, in European hands, must ever be, what it always has been, a scourge to this continent. We have often spoken of Mexico as a country whose anarchy and narrowness cost us more annually than its conquest would cost. A territory of our own equal to the area of Mexico has its growth impeded because it has no out to the southwest which can be made available. A boundary line between two of our own States is a sufficient curse; but when progress depends upon the joint action of two governments so totally opposite as the United States and Mexico, there is little hope in the future for either our own Southwest or for that Indian and mongrel race which Louis Napoleon was pleased to recognize as belong-ing to the Latins. What we have said of Cubs and Mexico applies in its main features

But, strange to say, these countries are not only a necessity to us, but we are a necessity to them. When Cubs can ship her products to the United States free of duty, she will be the richer. When Cauada helps us demolish the oustom-houses on the boundary-line between us, she will thrive beyond her preseet dreams. If the few men who keep Mexico in commotion would permit the seven millions of their Indian population to vote, that vote would be given unanimously for

the American flag. We have stated these things that Europe may understand our condition in North America. She can by this appreciate our temper and measure the chances if she chooses to draw blade against the destiny of the United States. Our Washington news indicates that the administration now listens to this beating of the public pulse and follows its movements. It thas been difficult to act heretofore. The boards had to be swept of the office-seekers, who gave no quarter until the spoils were divided. We suspect that President Grant, in his anxiety to get at the great foreign ques-tions which interest us, sacrificed the minor ones with respect to offices. Congress and its hungry friends threatened to open a war upon the Executive, in which he had nothing to win by opposition. Grant has therefore stepped aside and let the tide of impurity

Now we commence work. We are in the harness. Our Secretary of State, moving with the times, tells Spain, through her Minister, that the policy of the administration with reference to Cuba is settled. He refuses to issue a proclamation modelled upon that of President Fillmore in 1851. How far Spain is behind the age is best indicated by her asking for a reissue of such a cold-blooded document. Mr. Fish told the Spanish Minister that the Cubans already had a government of their own; that General Dulce must recall his unwarrantable order about vessels found traversing Cuban waters; that Americans had a right to volunteer in the Cuban revolutionary cause if they desired; that our fleet near Cuba "is there to protect the rights and persons of every American citizen. President Grant desires that every American, at home or abroad, shall be shielded from violence and outrage." All this is American and to the point. It is just what the people would say were the question submitted to them. It is only necessary for the administration to fearlessly carry out the programme here indicated to become the

most popular that the country has ever had.

The sharp language to Spain and the tone
of the administration and Congress towards England indicate that we are to settle our foreign questions in a dignified manner. We would not enter into a war with England so long as there is any hope of an honorable reparation on her part for the great wrongs done to us; but we have little inclination to double the effect of those wrongs by nursing them. Better settle them at once peaceably, if possible-by the sword, if necessary. It would be a grand struggle—a battle between old Mother England and ourselves. She is powerful, full of terrible elements for offensive or defensive warfare—all sinew, all courage; we are proud of her, but prouder still that we face her with hands on our sword hilts, fearing nothing. We have not blamed her for sweeping our commerce from the ocean; we only complain that she lacked honor in not frankly acknowledging that the dissolution of the United States was and is a necessity to her. In her four years' indirect warfare against us she has gained some advantage. We wish at least to repair it, and know of no better way than to do it by active war. We desire to sweep her commerce from the ocean, out off her trade communications with other countries, and stop her spindles. The war closed would find us side by side, well wrecked, but with a fair start for the fu'ure. With our superior recuperative powers, twenty years would then give us the commercial position we held before Ecgland destroyed it. We believe that General Grant feels and obeys the pressure of the people in their views as here presented. We want a settlement with Spain—with England. The long-look edfor moment has arrived, when we feel strong enough to demand "fair play."

PRISON PUNISHMENTS.

From the N. Y. Times. The late tragical results of the severe punishment of mutinous prisoners in our State Prisons has led to the introduction in the Senate of a bill to "abolish certain punish-ments." It is difficult to imagine how the characters who find their way into our prisons are to be controlled except by the exercise of arbitrary power and execution of strinof arbitrary power and execution of stringent and even severe rules; nevertheless it is not to be disputed that many of our prison-keepers and attendants are men of hardened and cruel natures, and that often the punishment inflicted is most inhuman. The "shower bath" is a torture hardly less severe than the "rack" or "wheel;" "tying up by the thumbs" and "bucking," are severer punishments than the "stock," and unworthy of use in a civilized community. We do not know which of the many punish-

ments of an objectionable character the bill | would flich from them every chance of rising, represents to abolish, but certainly these ought | and encourage their vices that their perpetual proposes to abolish, but certainly these ought to be condemned and prohibited. If the design of punishment is simply to torture and maim the physical man, rather than to subdue his unruly and mutinous spirit, these punishments are admirable; but as they generally result either in disabling the victim physically or making him more stubbern and sullen in disposition and vindictive in nature, we cannot perceive the great advantages of

their employment. The true and proper punishment for mu-tinous prisoners is to be found in the increase of their labors and the extension of their time of service. Let a rogue on entering prison understand that his release and the amount and nature of his labor while confined are to depend on his good behavior, cheer-ful disposition and obedience to prison laws and prison officials, and he will require very little physical punishment. When he is refractory, make him do overwork; if persistently vicious, extend the term of his confinement; but if, on the contrary, he is perfectly docile, shorten his term of sentence. It is simply the application of the old system of rewards and punishments which influence all men. They are the regulations which have been found most useful in prison management in Europe. The English "ticket-of-leave" and its French prototype are recognized as powerful influences in prison management, and as long as the prisoners remain in confinement, their influences are beneficial not finement their influences are beneficial not only in producing good discipline, but in correcting the habits and forming the character of the prisoner. It is the fault not of the regulation itself, but of a detective police system, that a "ticket-of-leave" renders the possessor after his discharge from prison subject to a strict surveillance, when, on the contrary, it should go far to exempt him from quick suspicion and prompt arrest on light evidence.

We sadly need the "ticket-of-leave" system in the prisons of this country, combined with the power to inflict overwork as a punishment, and to extend the term of service of criminals who are unfit to be free. There are numbers of criminals now detained in our prisons, and becoming daily more corrupt from association with more vicious men than themselves, who might with propriety be released, conditional on their good conduct. Occasionally our judges apply this principle in the cases of convicted criminals of whose reformation they have reason to be hopeful, by suspending sentence indefinitely; and there are several men in this city now living with the sentence of the law for past crimes hanging over them. There are also in our prisons many convicts who at the expiration of their terms of sentence will be as totally unfit to be free as when they went in, and who ought not to be turned loose in society to plunder it. For the first class we need a 'ticket-of-leave'' system, which will not have the disadvantage with the police of being a brand rather than a reward of merit to the criminal: it is hard enough that the possession of such a certificate of good conduct should drive the former convict from good society and honest employment. For the second class we need a commission, with power to extend the term of service from time to time for the protection of society. While our legislators are abolishing punishments which break the bones rather than the spirits of unruly men, let them also devise means to encourage the reformation of criminals, and protect society from the incorrigible ones.

MANHOOD SUFFRAGE IN ILLINOIS.

com the N. Y. Tribune. Sundry white men-some of them calling themselves "Democrats," and others claiming with about as little reason to be "Republicans"-have lately held a meeting in Marine, "to protest against the action of the Illinois Legislature and of Congress in seeking to force negro suffrage on this State, and on our great body of the American people." The indignation of these protestants was so great that it couldn't be adequately expressed in less than twenty-two resolutions. It must be admitted that the fine gold of this exceedingly impressive Pab. Doc. is spread rather thin; for every one of the twenty-two resolutions is devoted mainly to abuse of colored people, and of the friends and defenders of colored people. Resolution one asserts that our Governments (State and national) are 'founded on the basis of exclusive white race supremacy," which isn't true, some of the oldest and best governed States in the Union having for many years allowed colored men to vote upon the same terms as white men-Massachusetts, for instance. No State has a right to demand "exclusive white race supremacy," because it would be inconsistent with art. 4, sec. 4 of the Constitution, which provides that Congress "shall guarantee to every State in this Union a "republican form of government." The "exclusive supremacy" of any race is irreconcilable with what we understand, in this age and country at least, to be "a republican form of government," by which we mean strictly a democracy. Now, we must confess, if Virginia, or South Caro-lina, or Georgia can stand negro suffrage, that Illinois has no right to growl about it. Yet during the late Presidential canvass there was a constant bidding in some of those States for the negro vote. Young Mr. Adams went down to the South and talked to "the low negro" with unlimited affection, after which he came back to the North, and at Albany made speeches which were not complimentary to those he had been asking to vote the Demogratic ticket. Indeed, without wishing to do any injustice to the Democrats, we fancy that the difficulty with them is that the colored people show an inclination to vote the Republican ticket-a perfectly natural inclination, we think, under the circumstances.

They can hardly hope to win these voters to their cause while they keep up such an abuse of them as we find in these Illineis resolu-tions. Some half-a-dozen times they have something to say of "low negroes." Equality of races is pronounced "a beastly doctrine."
"The only safety for our republic," concludes one resolution, "is in exclusive white race supremacy, universally enforced in every part of our country as the cardinal, unalterable doctrine." And this is what American Demothe Republic!

cracy has come to in the ninety-third year of We do not care to insult our readers by attempting to show that such Democracy is Demooracy at all. It set up the vilest and most shameless of all possible aristocracies-something worse than an aristocracy of money, of refinement, or of birth-a skin deep aristocracy which says to the negro: - "You shall never rise in the social scale! Always and forever you shall be a Pariah! Ignorant in the midst of enlightenment, poor in the midst of plenty, idle while labor is in demand—you plenty, idle while labor is in demand—you and your children and your children's children to the latest generation!" Now, we say nothing of the humanity of a deom like this, but we stand aghast at the inexpressible folly of it. Here is a considerable body of our population upon the labor of which we depend for the preduction of cotton, tobacco, corn, sugar, and rice; physically a strong race so long as it is kept pure; a race eminently tractable and teachable; and yet, with professions of political equality upon our lips, the Democracy would consign these people to a degradation coexistent with their own lives,

debasement may be insured. Saying nothing of the wickedness and inconsistency of such a resolution as the following, was there ever such folly ?-

"Pirth. That the legislator who would seek to give away the elective franchise of the superior white race to the low negro is unworthy of respect or of social consideration among white men. And the legislator who would knowingly violate our written constitutional law, honeatly made to guard these rights, is a dangerous public leader, and only needs the opportunity to be a Robespierre, a Jean Paul Marat, or a Missouri Rodman."

"Superior white race," indeed! What precious evidence of "superiority" is here! Here are men who are not ashamed to do the grossest injustice to their fellow-creatures, and then to boast, by way of apology of their lown superiority! Hard-hearted and soft-headed without a morsel of pity in their natures, and with the feeblest and flabblest of consciences, it is difficult to see in what their superiority causists. Perhaps in being able to pass twenty-two resolutions in a single day, and among them a most ferocious and threatening one like this:-

"Nineteenth. That negroes ruling whites among us is such an outrageous injustice that nature abhors it, and it must not be tolerated, only as dis-eased excressences are impatiently borne till they can be safely removed with the skilful surgeon's lancet.

This would seem to point to a war of exter-mination against the blacks; and, if they cannot be treated like human beings, it would be the height of humanity to kill them off as speedily as possible. Perhaps the Legislature of this unfortunate State may, at some future period, be able to accomplish this; and we recommend the well known example of Pharaoh, or of Herod the King.

THE PROPOSED DEMAND FOR THE CES-SION OF CANADA. From the N. Y. Times.

The idea that Great Britain can be goaxed or bullied into ceding Canada to the United States, as a confession of the insult and an atonement for the injury she inflicted upon us during the Rebellion, is one of the most preposterous and absurd that ever entered head of a Western Senator. We hope and trust that the administration will not be seduced or betrayed into instructing our Minister to make any suggestion of this kind to the British Ministry; it would betray at once a degree of diplomatic ignerance, and a contempt of diplomatic desency, not at all creditable to any department of the Government.

If we are to have "negotiations" with Great Britain at all on this subject, we must start on some other basis than this. The offenses we charge upon Great Britain are such as "negotiation" has nothing to do with. Damages cannot pay for insults, nor for the prolongation of our war, with the loss of life and treasure which it involved. And the attempt to negotiate for satisfaction under such wrongs must, of necessity, involve us not only in failure, but in ridicule. And nothing could make the failure more complete and the disgrace more signal than to propose the cession of Canada, with her four millions of people, as the measure of the satisfaction which we require.

If the people of Canada desire annexation to the United States, and apply to the Home Government for release from its authority in order to carry out that desire, their action would afford a basis on which the matter might be arranged. But until that, or something like it, has been done, the less we meddle with the matter the better. The less we have to say about a cession of Canada by England, as a means of atoning for her wrongs and insults to us in the Alabama business, the more likely shall we be ever to obtain such a

cession. We concur in the general view of the case presented by Mr. Sumner in his recent speech. But we confess we do not see how, even country, contrary to the known wishes of the | that basis, friendly negotiations are to be easily opened between the two Governments, for an adjustment of differences. The tenor and tendency of that speech is towards war, rather than a peaceful settlement. And Senator Chandler's proposition in the Senate is unquestionably and avowedly in that direction. The paramount object in both cases is to compel England to do what will most humiliate her, in satisfaction of the wrongs she has done us. This cannot be done by ne-gotiation. It can only be done by war; and whenever the attempt to accomplish it in that way is resolved upon, we hope the job will be let out to Senator Chandler and his constituents. They seem to have more leisure on their hands just now than the rest of the country.

> OUR SPANISH SCANDAL AGAIN. From the N. Y. World.

It is creditable to the Tribune-which, through one of its European correspondents, has for some time past been conspicuous in the work of throwing mud at our foreign min-isters in general, and at Mr. Reverdy Johnson and Mr. Hale in particular—that it should have published, "without note or comment," a very short, sharp letter from Mr. Hale in reference to the treatment of himself by the correspondent in question.

Whether the Tribune would have behaved as well to Mr. Reverdy Johnson had that gentleman thought fit to notice the scurrilous attacks of its correspondent, may perhaps be doubted. Mr. Hale is one of its own people, a father in the Israel of radicalism. But be this as it may, Mr. Hale's explicit declaration that the Tribune's correspondent found his way as a friend into the house of the man whom he has since reviled without stint or measure on the strength of observations made at his victim's table and under the sacred rose, is decisive of the repute in which that person must be hereafter content to be held among gentlemen. The offender himself, if we are not mistaken, exhibted, in his first letters on the subject of Mr. Hale's conduct at Madrid, a vague, nneasy sort of half-consciousness that he was perpetrating an act of social treason, and endeavored to excuse himself in advance for it by the facile plea "of duty to his country." This plea of "duty to one's country" has been made to do a deal of very dirty work in the course of the last few years. But it will hardly hold in a season of peace, when people sit clothed and in their right minds. And that the less in this particular case, because a fresh letter from the same person, which appeared in Wednesday's Tribune, makes it quite clear that the whole affair of the exposure of Mr. Hale's alleged delirquency has been an elaborate intrigue concocted and carried out in the interest of Mr. Hale's Secretary of Legation, Mr. Perry. To ourselves, Mr. Hale is a Tyrian and Mr. Perry a Trojan. We care no more for the one than for the other, and for neither of them at all saving and excepting so far as his decent or indecent conduct in office abroat

should at last have been brought before the public by an "interpellation in the Spanish Cortes," and by a "leading article on that interpellation in a Government journal of Madrid, the Politica." He adds an expression of his "belief that the documents about Mr. Hale's complicity in certain smag-gling transactions which were called for in the Cortes had already been sent to Washington." As the documents in question were sent to this country by Mr. Perry, and as the Tri bune's correspondent has openly declared him-relf to be a familiar and advocate of Mr. Perry, it is telerably plain that his "belief" in this instance must have amounted to positive "knowledge." This is the more clear that, at the time when the Tribune's correspondent was writing in this fashion from Madrid, certain other friends of Mr. Perry in this country were contriving the publication here, without the authority of the Government, of the aforesaid documents. On these facts alone it might be safely predicated of the "exposure" in the Spanish Cortes and press that it was made, not for the sake of vindicating the laws or protecting the interests of Spain, but at the instigation of and to further the personal ends of Mr. Perry. The leading article in the Politica to which the Tribune's correspondent refers, however, leaves us in no doubt on this point. The "interpellation" which brought out the charges against Mr. Hale was made in the Cortes of Spain by Senor Fuente Aleazar, and the Politica says of it: - "We learn that the request of Senor Aleazar is made with the view of defending an innocent person now accused in the United States in consequence of that affair." This "innocent person, course, is Mr. Perry, whose wife, a Spanish lady, Donna Carolina Coronada, is a connection by marriago, we understand, of Senor

Fuente Alcazar. It can hardly be necessary to throw any further light, we fancy, on such a piece of business. We have given it the space which we now bestow upon it, not because we believe any more in the innocence than we do in the importance either of Mr. Hale or of Mr. Perry, but simply because the case illustrates the small and scurvy and spiteful way in which lesding radical politicians and leading radical journals can behave to each other, and their deplorable readiness to prostitute both official position and the public press to the most petty and contemptible personal

Of such wretched scandals as this the country, thanks to its folly of last November, may expect for four years more to keep on reaping new and ever-nastier crops.

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